

# Timote language

**Timote**, also known as **Cuica** or **Timote–Cuica**, is the language of the Timote–Cuica state in the Venezuelan Andes, around the present city of Mérida and south of Lake Maracaibo.

The language is reported to have gone extinct in the early to mid 20th century. However, in 1977 it was reported that the indigenous village of Mutús, in the heart of the old Timote state, still spoke an indigenous language, which would presumably be Timote. The name is apparently Timote, as 'Timote' itself derives from *ti-mot*Ꞥ 'Mutú speakers', and *mutú* or *mukú* is a common toponym in the region. This lead had not been followed up as of Adelaar (2004).

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## Dialects

The Timote and Cuica peoples apparently spoke dialects of a single language; some of the last reports of Cuica claim it was nothing other than Timote. Data is limited, but the connection is clear in the numerals:

Timote	
Cuica	
Migurí	
Native to	Venezuela
Native speakers	(perhaps 200 in the village of Mutús cited 1977)
Language family	Timotean <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Timote</b></li></ul>
Dialects	Timote <div></div> Cuica <div></div> ?Mutú (Loco)
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	–
Linguist List	qpj ( <a href="http://multitree.org/codes/qpj">http://multitree.org/codes/qpj</a> ) Timote-Cuica
	qdu ( <a href="http://multitree.org/codes/qdu">http://multitree.org/codes/qdu</a> ) Maguri
Glottolog	timo1237 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/timo1237">http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/timo1237</a> ) <div>Timote-Cuica<sup>[1]</sup></div>

Gloss	Timote	Cuica
1	karí	
2	xem, xen	
3	šut, sut, hisxut	šuent
4	pit	pití
5	kabó, kabok	kamó
6	kasum, kaksúm, kapsún	katseunt
7	mai-xem, mai-xén	ma-en
8	mai-xut, mai-sxut	mabi-šuent
9	mai-pit	mabi-pita
10	tabís	

Consonant clusters, somewhat unusual for the area, are found, especially in Cuica: *kču* 'bird', *stots* 'blood', Timote *klef* 'rainy season', *hutn* 'dog'.

## Mason (1950)

Mason (1950) provides a lengthy internal classification of Cuica and Timote:<sup>[2]</sup>

### Timóte (Timoti)

- 1. Timóte proper
  - Mukurujún
  - Mukusé
  - Mokoyupu
  - Mukuarsé
  - Ciribuy
  - Miyoy
  - Mukumbá
  - Kindorá
  - Tafallé
  - Mukumbají
  - Chino
- 2. Mocočí (Mokochi)
  - Miyuse
  - Tukaní
  - Mokochi (Torondoy)

### ■ 5. Chama (Miguri ?)

- Mokunche (Mukunche, Mukuneche)
- Mukurubá (Mokuruguá)
- Tabay (Mukunutáne, Tabayon ?)
- Mukurumagua
- Guake (Guakí)
- Mukumba
- Chichuy
- Mukuñoke (Mukuño, Migurí ?)
  - Mukurufuén
  - Muká
  - Mukumpí
  - Mukutirí
  - Mukusnandá
  - Mukaikuy
  - Mukusó, etc.

### Cuica (Kuika)

- 1. Cuica proper
- 2. Tostó
  - Tostó proper
  - Tiranjá
  - Tomoní
- 3. Eskuke (Eskukey)
  - Eskuke proper
  - Bombá
  - Moka
  - Tirandá
  - Chobú
  - Chachike
  - Chachu
  - Tirandá proper
  - Estiguate (Estiguati)

- 3. Mukutu (Escaguey)
  - Eskaguey
  - Kanaguá
  - Kinó
  - Mokoino (Mokino)
  - Mombun
  - Yarikagua
  - Arikagua
  - Mukutuy
  - Mukupatí
  - Mukuchachi
  - Trikagua
  - Mokoto (Mukutu, Mukutí)
    - Guarake
    - Bailadores
- 4. Tapano
  - Aviamo
  - Mokombó (Mokobo)
  - Tapano
- Mukurandá
- Mukuhúun (Mukupine, Mokoion)
- Chiguará
- Insnumbí (Insumbi)
- Estankes
- Mukuchi (Makuchi, Mokochiz)
  - Misantá
  - Mokao
  - Mosnachó
  - Misikea, etc.
- Eskagüey
- Mukujún
- Tatuy (Tatey ?)
- Mukaria
- Mukaketá
- Mukusirí
- Kaparú
- Jají (Mukundú)
- Mukubache (Mirripú, Mirripuy, Maripú ?)
- Mukúun (Mukumpú, Lagunillas)
  - Kasés
  - Mukuinamo
  - Arikagua
  - Tibikuay
  - Makulare
  - Mukusumpú
  - Barbudos
  - Jamuén, etc.
  - Kinaró
  - Tiguiñó
- Guaruní (Guarurí)
- 4. Jajó (Jakón, Jajón)
  - Jajó proper
  - Esnijaque
  - Kikoke (Kikoki)
  - Mapen (La Vega)
  - Duri
  - Mikimboy

#### Unclassified tribes

- Kirorá
- Mijure
- Montun
- Iguino

## References

1. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Timote-Cuica" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/timo1237>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
2. Mason, John Alden (1950). "The languages of South America". In Steward, Julian (ed.). *Handbook of South American Indians*. **6**. Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office: Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 143. pp. 157–317.

- Adelaar, Willem & Pieter Muysken (2004). *The Languages of the Andes*. Cambridge University Press. pp. 124–129

## External links

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- Fabre: Mutús (<http://www.ling.fi/Entradas%20diccionario/Dic=Mut%fas.pdf>)
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